




Selected AMLU Abandoned Mine Remediation Projects (2009)

(Click on pictures below or scroll down for more information)

	<p>Partner(s): Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Barstow Field Office</p> <p>Closure type: Cupola</p> <p>Location: San Bernardino County</p> <p>Completed: June 2009</p>
	<p>Partner(s): U.S. Forest Service (USFS) Inyo National Forest</p> <p>Closure type: Bat Gate</p> <p>Location: Inyo County</p> <p>Completed: June 2009</p>
	<p>Partner(s): BLM Barstow Field Office</p> <p>Closure type: Cupolas and grate</p> <p>Location: San Bernardino County</p> <p>Completed: January and February 2009</p>

Cupola Installed at Abandoned Goat Basin Mine, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Barstow Field Office, San Bernardino County, June 2009

The U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and Abandoned Mine Lands Unit (AMLU) in the California Department of Conservation's Office of Mine Reclamation (OMR) partnered to seal the hazardous Goat Basin Mine to protect public safety and wildlife. The site of the abandoned gold mine, located near Twentynine Palms less than one mile from Joshua Tree National Park, is frequented by four-wheel drive recreationalists and hikers. In 1991, an accident at the mine claimed the life of a man who had lowered himself into the mine shaft on some chains. When the chains broke, he fell to his death.

A U.S. Department of the Interior Office of Inspector General (OIG) audit in July 2008 described the Goat Basin Mine as follows:

"The opening at the mine is extremely dangerous and there was evidence that visitors were passing within feet of the opening on off-road vehicles. The edges of the opening have eroded, creating an "ant trap;" once a visitor goes over the edge, there is no way to stop falling into the hole."

The cupola replaced a wire fence that BLM had installed around the shaft. Funding for the closure was secured in part by U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein as part of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2008.



Open mine shaft at the Goat Basin Mine where a visitor died.
(OIG Photo)

"Through a cooperative effort between OMR and BLM, this steel enclosure called a "cupola" over the 400-square-foot mine shaft opening allows the bats that live inside to enter and leave while keeping out curious and adventurous humans. This cooperative abandoned mine lands closure effort also extends throughout the desert from Twentynine Palms through Barstow, and into the Ridgecrest area."

--Sterling White, BLM California Desert District Environmental Protection Specialist



AMLU's 600th Remediation Project: Bat Gate Installed on Historic Adit, Inyo National Forest, Mono County, June 2009

In June 2009, the AMLU completed its 600th physical hazard remediation project since it began funding such projects in 2002: the installation of a bat-compatible gate on a hazardous, abandoned gold mine in the Inyo National Forest near Mammoth Lakes.

The Mammoth Consolidated Mine and Mill is a 1920s-era gold mine that has become an interpretive center. It includes an assay building, bunk houses, cookhouse and superintendent's house as well as the mine, which has two adits (tunnels with one opening) that tend to attract the curious. During the summer months, hundreds of people are in the vicinity of the interpretive site daily, enjoying outdoor recreation. The site is adjacent to the Coldwater Campground, which has 75 campsites and is usually full in peak season, and a well-traveled trail that provides entrance into the John Muir Wilderness. Project work was completed in conjunction with the U.S. Forest Service to ensure the safety of visitors.

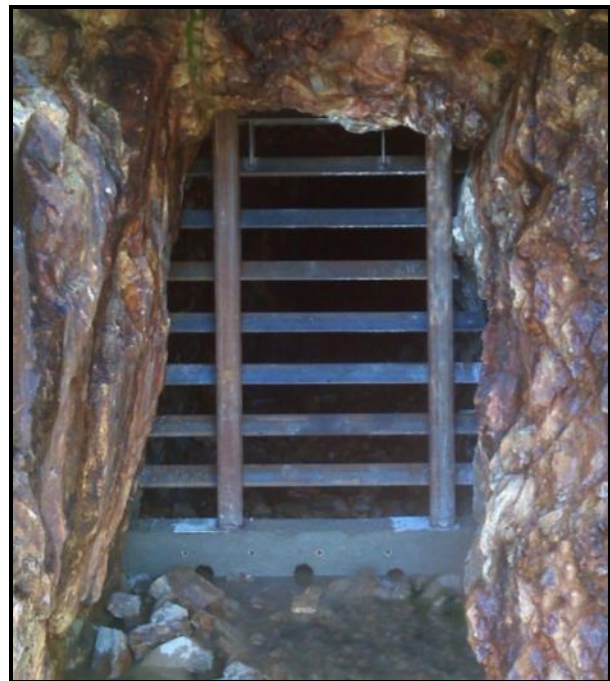
The adits were gated in the 1980s but had been repeatedly vandalized. The gate on the lower adit is in place and functioning, but the gate on the upper adit was dilapidated and in need of complete replacement. An OMR contractor installed the gate to allow bats to enter and leave the adit while keeping people from getting hurt or killed in the mine.

"The replacement of the gate addressed a dangerous safety hazard and will allow the visiting public to have a safe and enjoyable visit at this very popular site. The Inyo National Forest extends its heartfelt thanks to the California Office of Mine Reclamation for addressing this dangerous safety hazard in such a timely fashion."

– Lynn Oliver, Minerals and Geology Program Manager, Inyo National Forest



ADIT (with vandalized gate)



ADIT (with new bat gate)

Cupolas Installed on Mine Shafts, BLM, San Bernardino County, January and February 2009

In January and February 2009, the AMLU partnered with the BLM Barstow Field Office to install four cupolas and a grate on abandoned mine shafts near the city of Barstow, CA. These hazardous shafts are located in an area with lots of public visitation. Bat compatible closures were installed to preserve habitat while protecting the public from these hazardous features.



"The California Desert offers a myriad of recreational activities to thousands of people. Unfortunately, there are also a large number of hazards that can affect visitors as well. Working with the knowledgeable state AMLU crew, we were able to pool our resources to effect more closures than would have otherwise been possible."

-- Mickey Quillman, BLM Barstow Field Office

